

Application No. 10/025,249
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a detecting section which detects that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

a counting section which counts a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

10 a control section which disregards the fact a subsequent detection by the detecting section that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, even when the fact is detected again before until the counted used amount of the expendable, which is counted by the counting section, reaches a prescribed value.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an interface communicably to be connected communicably to a computer installed at a seller of the expendable; and

5 a mode storage section storing a mode in which wherein an order for the expendable is automatically placed with the computer installed at the seller of the expendable, when the

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detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display section which displays a message when the detecting section ~~detects again~~ makes the subsequent detection that the lifetime is expiring.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

5.. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises toner contained in a toner cartridge.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.

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8. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, comprising:

detecting that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

5 counting a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

10 disregarding the fact a subsequent detection that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, even when the fact is detected again before until the counted used amount of the expendable, which is counted, reaches a prescribed value.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

automatically placing an order for the expendable with the a computer installed at the a seller of the expendable, when the counting section detects it is detected that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a message when the detecting section detects again the subsequent detection that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring occurs.

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11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable is comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 11, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable comprises a toner cartridge containing toner.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 13, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.